NEWS
Eco-Friendly Opus
Opus generates tons of waste. Find out about its sustainability initiatives on **page 3**

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
Hamilton Choir Tour in Italy
Christopher Albino '20 shares his experience singing in Italy on **page 10**

SPORTS
Baseball Brings Home Wins
Read about Baseball's successful start to the 2017 season on **page 16**

The Spectator
Thursday,
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Professor Larson awarded $262K Grant for Prison Writing Archives

by Cesar Renero '17
Senior Editor

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLLY FOSTER

Grant recipient, Professor Larson.

Doran Larson, the Walcott-Bartlett Professor of Ethics and Christian Evidences, was awarded a $262,000 grant by the National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH) for his work on the American Prison Writing Archive (APWA). The NEH funds innovative projects and research through peer-reviewed proposals that expand and preserve the humanities nationwide. The APWA is the largest database of non-fiction work by current inmates in the United States, for which Larson serves as the Principal Investigator.

Professor Larson's interest in the field started in 2006, when he began organizing writing workshops at the Attica Correctional Facility. Once given a voice, incarcerated writers began sharing a plethora of experiences and stories that illustrated the reality of confinement. In 2008, Larson began offering a seminar class to Hamilton students that incorporated the Attica workshops, and in 2014 he published *Fourth City: Essays from the Prison in America*, which is to date the largest printed collection of prison writing.

Through these experiences, Larson realized that the sheer output produced by confined writers could not possibly be contained in workshops, seminars or books. To that end, the APWA seeks to identify, catalogue and preserve prison writing, with a fully searchable archive, in order to "replace speculation on and misrepresentation of prisons and imprisoned people with first-person witness by those on the receiving end of American criminal justice." Larson highlights the importance of hearing first-hand the histories that make up the largest incarcerated population in the world, one which is often silenced and ignored by the rest of our society.

This is the largest single NEH grant received by a Hamilton faculty member in 17 years, exemplifying nationwide recognition of Larson's efforts. One of the biggest challenges the APWA faces when soliciting, collecting and digitizing content is a lack of resources and human capital. The grant will provide useful funding for the next three years to double the size of the collection, as well as help improve its interface and improve its search capabilities.

Hamilton's Digital-Humanities Initiative (DHi) currently maintains the project and is designing and building its website interface. This is one of the various research activities housed by the DHi, which works to support faculty in developing digital research tools to advance the understanding and application of the humanities.

Evan Buitenhuis '18 wins Sid Watson Award, named Division III Men's Hockey Player of the Year

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON ATHLETICS

Read page 14 for details.

Levitt Leadership Institute heads to Washington D.C. for spring break

by Noelle Connors '19
Staff Writer

From March 11 to March 16, 20 participants of the Levitt Leadership Institute traveled to Washington D.C. to explore leadership in government and the nation's capital. Ambassador Prudence Bushnell and Professor Susan Mason of the Education Studies program led the program along with student Levitt Center employees Sarah Hogoboom '17 and James Mesiti '17. Over winter break, Levitt Leadership Institute participants explored their own personal leadership styles and how they affect group dynamics. In the second week of the program, which took place over spring break, the participants each organized meetings with leaders in fields of interest to see how leadership affects their daily lives.

Jack Wright of the Class of 2019 summarized, "It was a great opportunity to see how leadership and life in the 'real world' works in D.C. Ambassador Bushnell's experiences and stories also provided invaluable lessons."

To learn about Public Health in D.C. and globally, the students met with Robert Clay, Vice President for Global Health of Save the Children Foundation. From his over 34 years of experience in the field, Clay emphasized the importance of global health issues and public health, and the impact that United States policies and NGOs have on these issues. From a leadership perspective, Clay emphasized the importance of resilience in the long term. He showed that leading can often be frustrating in the day-to-day work, but overall can have tremendous impact. Furthermore, he emphasized the fact that everybody makes mistakes, and after some self-reflection, it is essential to move on.

Later in the week, students met with Matthew Marks and Allison Hoppe at the Environmental Protection Agency. Hoppe is a law clerk for the General Counsel of the EPA who specializes in issues of Federal Native American law, and Marks is an Attorney-Advisor for the Office of the General Counsel of the EPA. Marks described two important traits of a leader: the ability to drive change and the ability to motivate and empower people. Additionally, both Marks and Hoppe emphasized the importance of remaining optimistic and resilient in the face of challenges in the workplace and creating a community of shared motivation to drive change.

To learn about media and communication fields, the participants met with Matt Yglesias, a co-founder of Vox, and Sarah Schultz, the communications director for Young Invincibles, a non-profit that works to make young people's voices heard in politics. Both leaders in the communications field emphasized the importance of humility as a leader and the importance of innovating without disregarding old conventions. They also emphasized the importance of having confidence to make decisions but being willing to accept criticism and change one's argument. They led an engaging discussion on the importance of obtaining balanced news in the face of the fake news debates and encouraged everyone to read a variety of sources to see a broader perspective.

Levitt Leadership Institute participants were very fortunate to meet with Antwan Wilson, the Chancellor of the D.C. Public School system. Wilson, who has experience at all levels of education and education management, emphasized the importance of prioritizing the student and ensuring that the student is the priority in every

see **LLI**, *page 2*

PHOTO COURTESY OF ACACIA BOWDEN'20

LLI participants smile in front of the International Trade Center.

Levitt Leadership Institute finishes program in Washington, D.C.

from **LLI,** *page 1*

decision, as he believes that education is a basic human right. As a leadership style, Wilson emphasized the importance of curiosity and the belief that you will always be wrong twice as much as you will be right, so you should never be afraid of failure and reflection.

Acacia Bowden '20 describes, "For me, LLI was a great experience because of the people. We had the opportunity to learn from leaders in many different fields and since I am interested in pursuing a career in health care, being able to talk with Robert Clay, the Vice President of Health and Nutrition at Save the Children, was particularly insightful. And when we weren't at scheduled events, we got to know each other better as we enjoyed all D.C. has to offer."

In addition to speaking with these incredible leaders in various fields, participants were able to explore Washington D.C., visiting the monuments, museums, the Supreme Court and the Capitol. Overall, this trip provided incredible experiences for students to learn more about working in fields they are interested in and applying leadership skills to various careers.

Hamilton students travel the nation with Alternative Spring Break

by Emma Ritz '20
News Contributor

After midterm season, most Hamilton students were glad to take a step back from the academic rigor of college life and head back home. More than 100 students however ventured off campus to work with charitable organizations through the Alternative Spring Break program, scattering them all over the US.

The program began in 1993, and in its first year 20 students went to Miami to help clean up after Hurricane Andrew. From that point on, Hamilton has established a tradition of sending students off to perform charitable work over the break. Typically it has sent 10 groups off to work with a diverse set of charitable causes. In the past, students have traveled to Louisiana with Habitat for Humanity, Philadelphia with Urban Tree Connections and many other locations.

This year, student-led groups travelled throughout the United States, taking part in various projects ranging from constructing homes with Habitat for Humanity in South Carolina to agricultural and education-based programs throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. Programs took place during either of the weeks of break. ASB is run by its own student executive board that cooperates with the COOP to organize and implement trips and programming each year. Students who participate in the program every year tend to say it leaves them with a sense of fulfillment and purpose with a greater appreciation for philanthropy both at Hamilton and in general.

Many people find the experience extremely impactful. AlMahdi Mahil '20 was part of a group going to Baltimore to learn about the city and work with a handful of organizations committed to helping the local populace. He says, "It felt like we were actually doing something…we were building flower beds one day, helping kids do their homework the next, we were doing all of these community projects around Baltimore. It was very interesting and it gave us a perspective over what our lives are like. The two sides of Baltimore are supremely different. It's separated by a thin harbor—and the difference in the socioeconomic status, the difference in the culture, the difference in the people was stark, and it brought back to us that this wasn't just a volunteer trip, it was also a learning trip, and it did end up being a great learning experience for me."

Mahil reflects back on his experience saying, "I would most definitely do ASB again…I can confidently say, as cliché as it sounds, that it did change my life." Next year, for the 25th time, students will be offered the opportunity to embrace their charitable inclinations and desire to travel by taking part in this program. Since its origins in '93, ASB has certainly become a wide-reaching and important program at Hamilton.

PHOTO COURTESY OF EMMA RITZ '20

ASB's Baltimore trip takes a break from their work in town.

AMHERST BATES BOWDOIN COLBY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

NESCAC NEWS

by Sarah Luster '19
News Contributor

Bowdoin heads new climate research on the coasts of Maine

In recent studies, scientists have estimated that Maine's coasts are warming up at a rate 99 percent faster than the majority of the world's oceans. As a result, Dave Carlon, the head of the Bowdoin College Coastal Studies Center, along with his colleagues and Bowdoin students, started recording temperature data in three intertidal sites along the coasts of Maine. Through their work, Bowdoin College became part of the Northeastern Coastal Stations Alliance (NeCSA). The NeCSA is made up of many different climate research groups, operating at different coastal sites from Canada to New Hampshire. As of 2017, Bowdoin has decided to invest long term in the Gulf Project, continuing their quest with the Bowdoin Marine Science Semester.

Trinity hosts retired NBA player on April 11

Former Boston Celtics player Keyon Dooling is scheduled to speak at Trinity College on April 11 about overcoming life's obstacles and becoming a leader. After his recent retirement, Dooling became a life coach and motivational speaker. Dooling is set to deliver a talk titled "What's driving you? How I Overcame Abuse and Learned to Lead in the NBA." Dooling experienced a mental breakdown after retiring as result of suppressing his experience of sexual abuse as a child. After the incident, he found that talking about the abuse helped rather than hurt his healing process. Now Dooling gives talks on the harmful effect of masculinity on young boys and society and delving deeper into issues of sexual abuse and assault.

Bates opens new residence halls

Bates College recently built two new residence halls for its students which will be named after Elizabeth Kalperis Chu and J. Michael Chu, who are both Bates alumni. The Chu's donated 10 million dollars to the college, stating: "Bates gave both of us a remarkable education that provided the foundation for our lives and careers." Elizabeth and Michael Chu were college sweethearts, eventually marrying after graduating from Bates. Their lives continued to be connected to the Bates community through their eldest son, CJ, who graduated from the College in 2012.

MIDDLEBURY TRINITY TUFTS WESLEYAN WILLIAMS

Cafe Opus makes eco-friendly strides with new sustainability intiatives

by Margaret Riordan '19
News Contributor

PHOTO BY JADE THOMAS '20

Brian Maldonado '18 mans Cafe Opus 1.

Morning, noon and night Hamilton students flood Opus 1 and 2 seeking caffeine, lunch or something sweet. Many students visit daily, and some even twice daily. Unfortunately, the downside of Hamilton's Opus fix is not just a coffee addiction; it is an overwhelming amount of waste. Americans consume 146 billion cups of coffee a year, many of which can be attributed to all nighters, early mornings and finals week. With all that energy comes 146 billion cups and tops, the majority of which end up in the trash, due to either a lack of attention to or understanding of recycling practices. Those cups last much longer than the caffeine they provide and will sit in a landfill along with the plethora of other materials all to-go eateries use. This year, Larry Bender, Sarah Georges and Nancy Soule, managers of Opus and strong members of the Hamilton community, embarked on a mission to reduce Opus' waste. Cafe Opus hopes to implement social consciousness into their daily duties by using sustainable products with the hopes that these changes will inspire students to make changes in their own habits.

Opus' sustainability initiatives not only reduce waste within the cafe through integrating biodegradable and recyclable products, but also teach employees and customers the importance and positive impacts of these practices. In order to understand Opus' initiatives, it is first important to explain the breakdown of disposable materials: biodegradable, recyclable, and trash. For a product to be biodegradable it must completely break down and decompose into elements found in nature within a reasonably short period of time after disposal. Recyclable products must be able to be collected, separated for reuse or use in manufacturing or assembling another item. Essentially, recycling a product turns it into something new and is commonly found with many plastics, glass, aluminum and cardboard. Finally, trash refers to any product that will not break down in nature and cannot be recycled. Yes, unfortunately, that includes straws.

So how does Opus break down? The cafe is subject to the usual bulk of disposable materials and the problems embedded into these products. Most to-go hot cups are made from the same industry standard polyethylene lining, which takes over a year, at least, to break down. Problems expand beyond the products themselves as students have struggled to understand how to properly dispose their Opus trash. Some cups need to be separated, as tops and sleeves may be recyclable while cups are not. Additionally, Opus carries many products in plastic bottles, which are difficult to recycle compared to glass or aluminum. These primary issues of consumption and disposal all relate to a fundamental misunderstanding of the true cost of the final products handed across the window. The price of of a cup of coffee or a bowl of soup does not cover only the ingredients, but also the costs for production, shipping and disposal of all the materials used. While most customers simply see a free disposable cup, these social costs are embedded into the prices cafes use, and therefore, making Opus more sustainable comes at a price. Luckily, it is a price Opus is more than willing to pay.

The sustainability overhaul at Opus is marked by restocking disposable materials, eliminating bottled products and ultimately, introducing composting. Opus has begun using bowls, cups and utensils made of corn, including hot coffee cups that use a biodegradable vegetable poly lining. Following HEAG's recent "Take Back the Tap" campaign to remove unnecessary bottled water from campus, Opus will no longer stock bottled water. The team is also making a transition to aluminum cans and glass bottles such as the new Kombucha or the classic San Pellegrino. Additionally, Physical Plant installed a brand new filtered water fountain behind Opus 1 to accompany the fountain next to Opus 2. Finally, Opus now composts all scraps and materials from throughout the day including lunch leftovers, coffee grinds and other products that previously piled up in the trash. Opus will join with McEwen and Commons to compost at the local Crane Farm on College Hill Road.

All these changes will only be as effective as the engagement from the Hamilton community allows them to be. Hamilton's Director of Sustainability Brian Hansen noted, "People think that sustainability is something that 'they' do, but there is no 'they' there is only 'we.'" Opus took Hansen's advice to heart and is taking the necessary steps to encourage students to lean into sustainability on campus. Working with the Sustainability Coordinators, Opus put together poster guides for recycling and composting at the cafes. The posters will go up at Opus 1 and 2 to break down exactly what is biodegradable, recyclable and trash. Even better, Mcewen and Commons use the same biodegradable cups, so the information from the boards will be applicable to all around campus. The boards will also advertise Opus' incentives to reduce, reuse, recycle, promoting the cafe's 5 cent discount for bringing your own mug or plate.

Opus' dedication to sustainability and student engagement is illustrated in the cafe's decision not to raise prices to reflect the elevated cost of the new products. Keeping the prices the same encourages students that sustainability does not have to come at a higher cost for the greater consumer when companies take the initiative. Prompting students to increase their conservation habits by bringing their own mugs or separating their trash emphasizes student responsibility, analytical thinking and community engagement. Paper products are just the beginning.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the previous weekend's incidents each Thursday. The entire report is available in the online edition of *The Spectator.* Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

Saturday March 18

1:42 P.M. Area Check – West Quad

Sunday March 19

2:49 P.M. Suspicious Vehicle – Taylor Science Loop

Tuesday March 21

6:06 P.M. Hazardous Condition – Adnerson-Connell Center

Thursday March 23

5:27 P.M. Area Check – Taylor Science Center
6:11 P.M. Smoke Detector – Milbank Hall
9:01 P.M. Noise Complaint – Eells House

Friday March 24

6:57 P.M. Fire Alarm – Carnegie Hall
7:37 P.M. Fire Alarm – McIntosh Hall

Saturday March 25

8:05 A.M. Mechanical Issue – Griffin Road Apts.
9:55 P.M. Noise Complaint – Eells House
10:10 P.M. Harassment – Main Quad
10:50 P.M. Noise Complaint – Eells House

Sunday March 26

12:04 A.M. Medical Emergency – Morris House
2:24 A.M. Noise Complaint – Milbank Hall
1:19 P.M. Mechanical Issue – Root Residence Hall
3:09 P.M. Fire Alarm – Sadove Center

The Spectator would like to take this opportunity to recognize Haley Lynch '17, Editor Emerita, for her leadership and unwavering dedication to our publication over the past year. During her tenure as Editor-in-Chief, Lynch masterfully upheld *The Spectator's* commitment to excellence and met all of the challenges laid out for her with poise and dexterity.

In the fall semester, the paper covered a wide array of subjects in depth, from sexual assault issues on campus to topics surrounding Hamilton's political atmosphere. Lynch introduced President Wippman to the Hamilton community, honored the life of Natalie Babbitt, reported on Title IX policies and maintained and updated the newspaper's investigation into the Hamilton community's relationship with nearby Utica public school and refugee centers. Thus far this semester, *The Spectator* has closely covered, and continues to explore, the College's response to President Trump's immigration policies. In the midst of our nation's many conversations surrounding "fake news," Lynch has also encouraged discussion about the merits of college journalism and free speech.

During her time as Editor-in-Chief, Lynch ensured that all reporting by *The Spectator* was done with integrity and honor. Lynch encouraged the entire *Spec* staff to do their best work and to dig deep into the stories. We hope to continue upholding her high standards of journalistic excellence, and we look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead.

The Spectator editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.

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The Spectator is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board.
A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication.
The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely and high-quality publication.

Please Recycle Your Copy of _The Spectator_

Celebrating 169 years, we were first published as The Radiator *in 1848.*

The Spectator

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Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

Relentless incrementalism: a sustainable practice in uncertain environmental times

by Will Kaback '20
Opinion Editor

On Tuesday, President Trump signed his 19th executive order titled "Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth," which stands to expand coal mining on federal land and potentially scrap the Clean Power Plan, the key climate change initiative of the Obama Administration. Trump's order, in his own words, will attempt to end "the war on coal" while ushering in "a new energy revolution." It's an alarming, but unsurprising, action that falls in line with the Trump Administration's general apathy towards climate concerns.

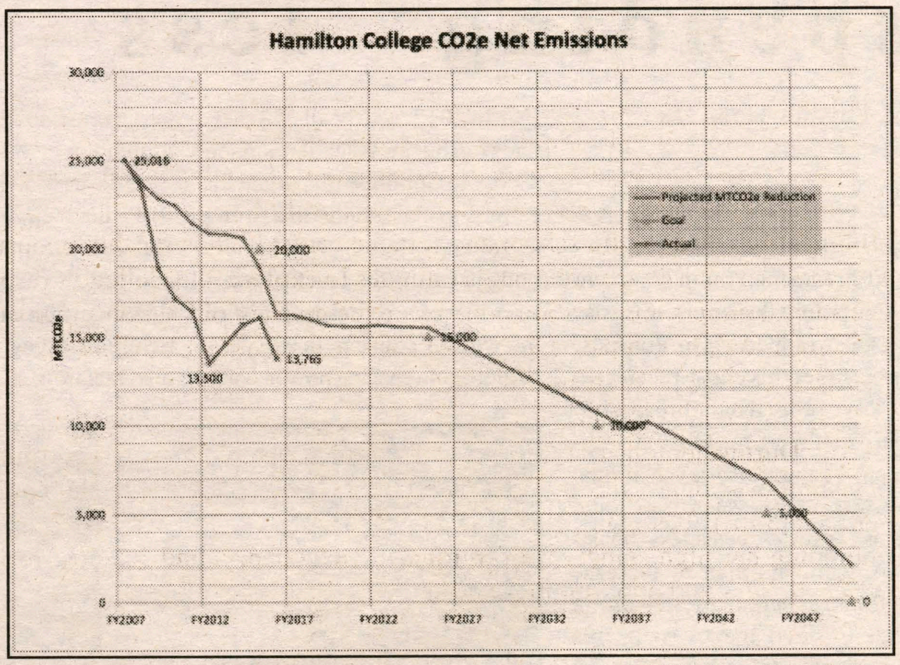
Here at Hamilton, Trump's order no doubt provoked concern among the student body. After all, it will be this generation that has to live the bulk of its years under a growing shadow of rising ocean temperatures, melting glaciers and pollution, while septuagenarians like President Trump can live out the remainder of their lives on the verdant greens of Mar-A-Lago with little concern for the Earth's future prospects. That Trump holds the power to hinder climate changes efforts so easily is dispiriting, but for those at the College looking for ways to support initiatives like the Clean Power Plan on a more individual level, look no further than, well, this campus.

Unbeknownst to many outside of the administration and Physical Plant, Hamilton has set its sights on carbon neutrality by the year 2050. Achieving this lofty goal will mean that the carbon released from all college-related activities (from heating, to electricity, to waste disposal to even study abroad travel) will be fully balanced out by carbon that would have been used but is instead conserved through sustainable practices. It is a tall task; the College has 110 buildings to manage in addition to aforementioned energy-users like disposal services and travel. The daunting nature of this task, though, has proved manageable under the guidance of Steve Bellona, Associate Vice President for Facilities and Planning.

Bellona's resume on the Hill is impressive. Following a 24-year career in the Coast Guard, he came to Hamilton in 1997. In his first years, he oversaw the construction and renovations of prominent buildings like the Taylor Science Center, Blood Fitness & Dance Center, Kirner-Johnson Building, Sadove Student Center and Wellin Museum. Furthermore, he helped three buildings on campus earn the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for New York State. His largest undertaking, and one that may come to define his career, however, has been his work in sustainability, most notably the drive for carbon neutrality. And, as Bellona will say, a key variable in achieving this goal will be the role students play in aiding the overall efforts.

First, some context. The College sits pretty relative to most of the other NESCAC schools as far as sustainability, but it has a long way to go before carbon neutrality is in sight. Bellona has compiled expansive data specific to Hamilton and other schools in his efforts to demonstrate the progression of energy savings. His most recent figures show that Hamilton's fossil and electric BTU per gross square foot (around 95,000) places it well below the college and university average of 130,000 BTU/gross square foot.

In 2016, the majority of CO2 emissions at the College came from heating fuels like natural gas and oil, in addition to other factors like electricity and solid waste. Obviously, the need to heat and power our buildings is unavoidable, but that does not mean we cannot develop more sustainable ways of doing so. And that is just what Bellona and his team have done. The addition of two major solar power projects and a wind turbine accounted for over 40,000 kilowatt-hours of renewable energy for the College in 2016, which is in line with the output from previous years. These results are largely thanks to the aforementioned renewable energy commitments and overall integration of sustainable practices.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF STEVE BELLONA

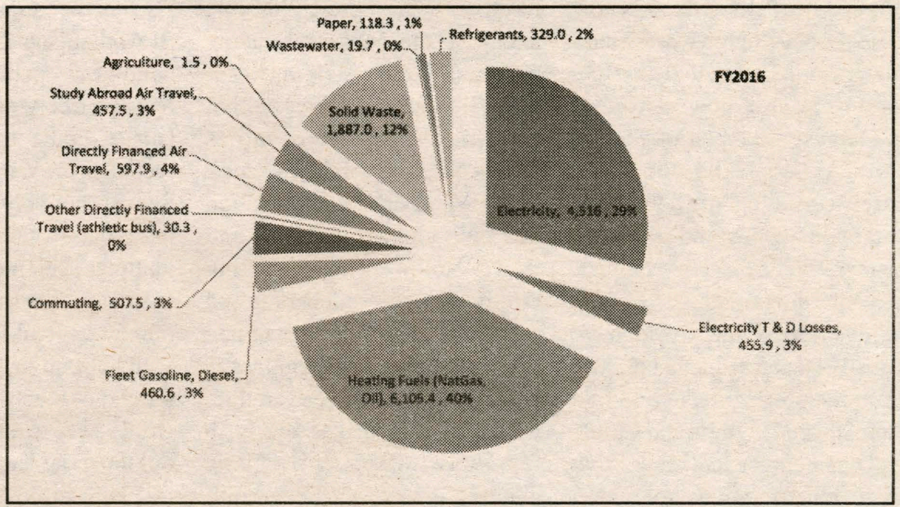
Where the College stands on it's current CO2 emissions (red) versus it's projected output for 2016 (blue).

Bellona has also taken his carbon neutrality project to the mass market in buying carbon credits. Carbon credits are permits that allow an institution like Hamilton to essentially "write off" certain amounts of CO2 emissions. In buildings or facilities that lack the infrastructure necessary to implement more sustainable features (think older places on campus like Root Hall), the College can buy a carbon credit, which represents the right to emit one tonne of CO2 or a CO2 equivalent for a set price per credit. That money then goes to the carbon trading market, where it can be used to pay for other sustainability initiatives that are feasible but lack funding. Here, the College can progress towards carbon neutrality without taking immediate, drastic steps to alter its existing infrastructure.

Currently, the results from sustainability efforts have outpaced Bellona's projections. For the 2016 fiscal year, CO2 net emissions stood at 13,765 MTCO2e, well below the projected 16,000 MTCO2e. In fact, this data shows that the College has already met its emissions goal for 2030, and the overall pattern since emission data graphing began in 2007 shows a sharp downward trend. These encouraging results, however, should be used as motivation to continue such aggressive efforts. Now that their success has been proven, the onus is on the entire community to ensure the expansion and maintenance of these sustainable practices.

This brings me, in a roundabout way, to the main point of this article: the role of students in these efforts. While we might not be able to erect a wind turbine or install solar panels, there is just as much impact to be had by adopting a policy of "relentless incrementalism." This term, a favorite of Bellona's that he credits to David Smallen, the Vice President of Library and Information Technology, speaks to the idea that the culmination of small, environmentally-conscious actions by individuals within the student body add up in the long term. Actions as simple as keeping the temperature low in rooms with thermostat autonomy, unplugging electrical devices when not in use and refraining from using vehicles to drive from dorm to class are examples of the kind of "incremental" progressions Bellona envisions when he uses the phrase.

Now that we seem to be entering a time of uncertain environmental prospects, Hamilton's goal of carbon neutrality takes on an even more urgent purpose. Certain matters, like Trump's executive action, are out of our hands, but green initiatives at home remain vital. Students, with our phone chargers and coffee makers and all-wheel drive vehicles, possess a considerable amount of power to spur positive environmental change within the community. Heightened mindfulness combined with a drive to improve the health of the planet by even the smallest of measures can form an amalgamation of progress with the ability to aid existing sustainability initiatives. Relentless incrementalism should be a real and reasonable expectation of every student.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF STEVE BELLONA

The breakdown of CO2 emissions at the College for the 2016 fiscal year.

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
Microsoft Workshops with Nicole Richie. I learned so much about the most important requirements for being successful in business, which are obviously developing your personal brand and not over plucking your eyebrows!	**Power Yoga Cancelled.** I was so devastated that the only healthy thing I do was cancelled (thanks, David Thompson) that I had to go lie in my bed for five hours and watch Nicole Richie's Microsoft workshop just to recover.	**It's now that incredible period of the spring semester in which everyone has forgotten how to do they extreme amount of work they have.** At least we have 30 seconds of pleasant weather waiting for us before finals start!

by Tara Cicic '18

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

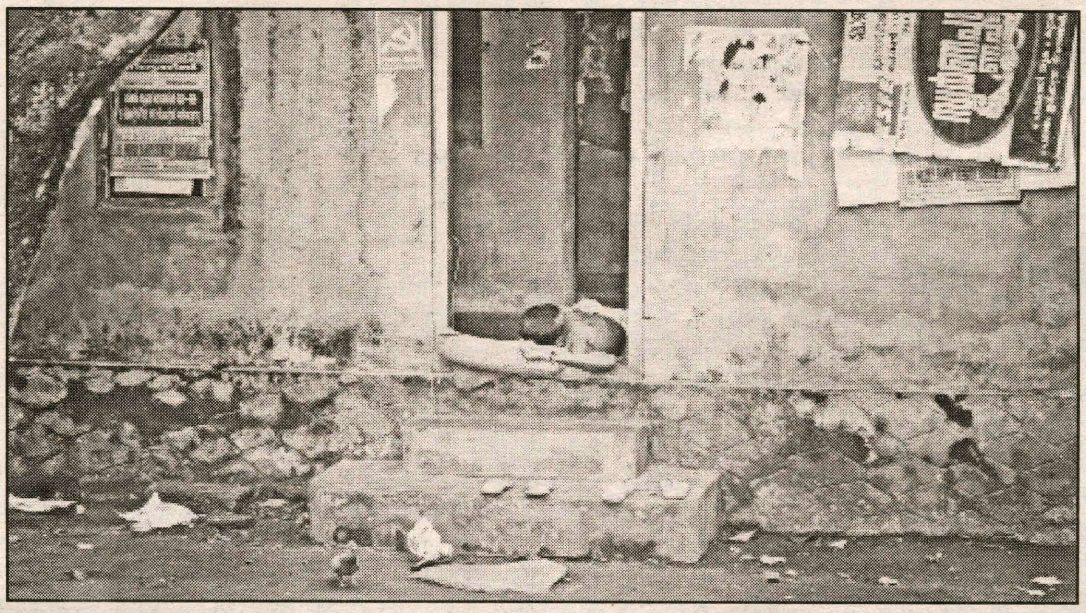
Spending more on foreign aid means spending less on ammunition

by Lo Sniderman '18
Opinion Editor

With the new administration nearing its first 100 days and President Trump's contentious policy decisions, it is easy to get wrapped up in domestic issues (see his most recent executive order that nullifies a key part of President Obama's climate change efforts). National security is one such issue, and it is Trump's ceaseless boasting about his plan to increase military spending by $54 billion that inspired me to write this article. I would like to breach the realm of domestic policy and look towards combating the world's most crucial international issue—the global poverty crisis—as an alternate solution to enhancing the United States' national security. The U.S. is not doing nearly enough to counteract global poverty, and allocating more funding to our foreign affairs budget would have spillover benefits for the United States that even President Trump could get behind.

Let's put this issue into perspective. About half of the world's population lives on less that $2.50 a day. According to UNICEF, 22,000 children die quietly each day "in some of the poorest villages on earth, far removed from the scrutiny and the conscience of the world." About 1.6 billion people—a quarter of humanity—live without electricity, and the world's developing countries account for just 2.4 percent of world exports. For obvious moral reasons, fighting global poverty is important. What the majority of Americans fail to realize is that focusing U.S. foreign policy on international poverty is also in our strategic interest.

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, companies can benefit from operating internationally more than ever. 50 percent of all US exports now go to the developing world, making it no surprise that that the world's poor is now viewed as the largest untapped market on earth. As people transition from barely surviving into being consumers of goods and products, new markets for U.S. companies' products emerge. Corporations across the world have already benefitted substantially from the poverty reduction that has occurred in India and China, and business leaders realize that their future earnings are tied to the efforts of U.S. leadership to reduce global poverty.



HTTPS://PIXABAY.COM/EN/POVERTY-MAN-SADNESS-MEANS-TESTED-2075922/

In 2012, nearly all of America's top business leaders signed a letter to Congress that urged for congressional support of a strong and effective international affairs budget. Citing the fact that overseas markets represent 95% of the world's consumers and 80% of global purchasing power, companies like Microsoft, Walmart, Land o' Lakes and Caterpillar appealed to Congress to better support international development and diplomacy programs. After all, 10 of the U.S.'s top 15 trading partners were once recipients of our foreign aid. In an age where one out of five American jobs is export based, combating global poverty advances U.S. business interests by supporting international companies and spurring job creation here at home.

While advocating on behalf of the world's poor, I have often heard the argument that saving lives leads to overpopulation which forces people to choose between supporting humanitarian efforts and environmental causes. Actually, the opposite is true; saving lives by reducing poverty also reduces the population growth of developing countries. Women in regions with higher child mortality rates are likely to have more children to anticipate the loss of one or more of their offspring. Helping to improve living conditions within the world's poorest countries lets people start making decisions based on the expectation that their children will live and thrive. Not to mention, making family planning education and resources accessible to women in developing countries as a complement to poverty reduction measures drives the birth rate down still further. Letting children die now so they don't strain the planet later is an unfounded (and frankly outlandish) excuse to avoid addressing global poverty.

We now arrive at the reason for addressing global poverty that gets the most attention, the one that the Trump administration should consider before drastically reducing federal funding on education, scientific research and conservation efforts: our national security. The Bush and Obama administrations both focused on the Pentagon's "three D's" for protecting the U.S.—defense, development and diplomacy. While our armed forces will always be the cornerstone of U.S. security, they must be complemented by proactively investing in stronger societies and human welfare.

It is no coincidence that the poorest countries on earth are also where we have the most pressing national security concerns. Desolate poverty creates a breeding ground for terrorist organizations and drug cartels, and when people don't have opportunities for economic self-sufficiency, these organizations become their survival method. We have learned this lesson time and time again—in WW1, for instance, when the dismal conditions in Germany gave rise to the reign of Hitler. Or in Afghanistan, where unstable conditions enabled Al-Qaeda to operate freely and for the Taliban to come to power. More recently, the terrorist group Al-Shebab actively grew in ranks in Somalia by recruiting famine victims. Their methodology was to give people small amounts of money or food in exchange for their help, an easy decision when the choice is between letting your child starve to death and helping out the local terrorist group.

U.S. military leaders agree that development and diplomacy programs are a critical but undervalued component of America's national security. Just how undervalued they are is reflected in the meager sum allotted to our international affairs budget—about 2% of the Federal Budget goes to improving living condition for the world's poor, despite the fact that Americans consistently estimate that foreign aid makes up 20 percent or more of our federal budget. Despite the 1970 international agreement of the world's richest countries to give .7 percent of their gross national income to international development aid, the U.S. falls below even the average country effort of .4 percent, contributing only .19 percent of its GNI. For a country that prides itself on its powerful stance on the world stage, the U.S. is weak with respect to other nations' efforts to improve international conditions.

Some might say the US has displayed such a lack of effort to combat the global poverty crisis because foreign aid does not work. However, international development programs have reduced the world's chronically malnourished population by 50 percent in the past twenty years. As the world's most powerful economy, U.S. aid plays a crucial role in this development process. More than 3 million lives are saved every year through U.S. immunization programs, and over 50 million couples worldwide use family planning as a direct result of U.S. aid's population program. If combating global poverty is effective and in our national security and business interests, why does so much skepticism still surround the term "foreign aid?"

Hesitation to strengthen our international affairs budget stems predominantly from Americans' false perceptions about foreign aid. People insist that corruption in developing nations prevents aid from reaching its intended recipients, or that global poverty is simply too big an issue to prevent.

Corruption, however, is by no means a justification for ignoring the plight of the world's poor. It exists nearly everywhere, including the United States. Besides, there are numerous practices in place to ensure that aid ends up in the right hands. For instance, the Millennium Challenge Account is a funding program that requires countries to address corruption extensively before they can receive assistance from the U.S. Also, consider that foreign aid does not mean airdropping bundles of money in developing countries. You cannot steal knowledge about modern medicine or elementary education, and criminals are not interested in seizing malaria-fighting bed nets, birthing kits and clean water wells.

In regards to the scope of the global poverty crisis, let me assure you that it is not too big to tackle. Solutions are easy, affordable and proven to work, and when people receive the basic tools they need for a foundation, they will lift themselves out of poverty. In 2015, for example, the UN completed its Millennium Development goals which in part sought to cut global poverty in half. This goal was achieved—early. Oxfam estimates that it would take $60 billion annually to end extreme global poverty, which is less than a quarter of the income of the top 100 richest billionaires.

Sometimes when I promote the importance of U.S. foreign aid, people ask me incredulously why the U.S. should address poverty abroad when we have it here at home. To this, I simply say that domestic and foreign policy are not competing interests. Our foreign policy should be focused on international poverty because it is a moral imperative and in our strategic interest. For the same reasons, our domestic policy should focus on poverty at home. Targeting domestic and fighting foreign poverty is not a trade off.

Shifting the focus of U.S. foreign policy towards combating global poverty is truly a ground-up effort. Call your senators and ask them to support funding for the international affairs budget. Or better yet, find a specific bill that addresses global poverty and lobby your congressmen to co-sponsor it.

Bachelor and Bachelorette

Polly Bruce '17

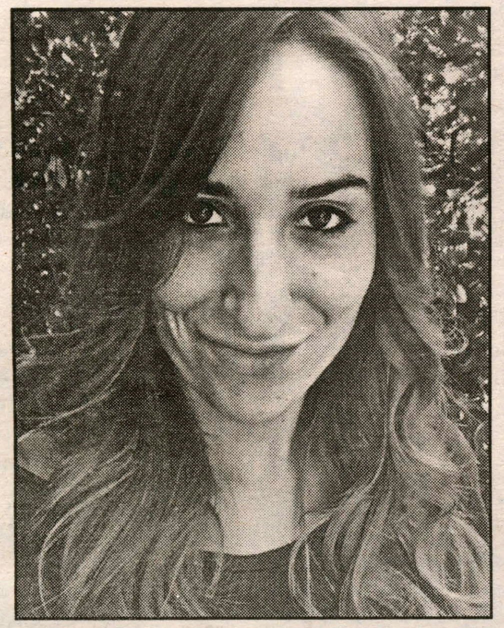


PHOTO COURTESY OF POLLY BRUCE '17

Hometown: *Old Greenwich, CT.*

Home on Campus: *Babbit 29.*

Major: *Interdisciplinary Communication and Women's Studies.*

Turn On? *A sense of humor, a sense of style and someone who will eat all of the food I give them.*

Turn Off? *Someone who rejects my food offerings.*

If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Babbitt. Because it's where all the cool artsy people reside. And I'm at least artsy...still working on the cool bit though.*

If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Kenny G and Lady Gaga: bougie and low key with just the right amount of extra.*

Where do you go when you want to be alone? *I take a run up the Hill past the farms outside the college. It's so peaceful there!*

If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Rainbow! But I'm already part of it...and co-head of it... so really everyone else should join 'cause I'm just living the dream.*

What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *"Oh, yeah I totally support gay rights. I'm really attracted to lesbians." (A straight cis guy said to me).*

What are three things you cannot live without? *Cheese, friends and groutfits.*

If you were any social space, what would it be? *The Barn. Because I will always have food. You can count on that.*

What's your patronus and why? *I took the official Pottermore quiz and I'm a mole. I have absolutely no idea why. Maybe because I'm a hermit who resides in dark corners and only comes out for food? But really, who knows?*

Who would you say is your campus crush? *Jake Blount. Because he's a boss and also is one of the sweetest, sassiest people I know. Also unapologetic. #goals*

What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *I have Jane Austen "Bad Boy" tattoos sitting on my desk. Two packets of them, actually, in case anyone wants some. (Also a face steamer. @Jake Blount).*

If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Challah bread - a little sweet, a little salty and hella Jewish.*

Lights on or lights off? *Lights off. As indicated above, I have a mole patronus. I think that speaks for itself.*

Brian Burns '17

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN BURNS '17

Hometown: *Scotch Plains, N.J.*

Home on Campus: *Babbit.*

Major: *Literature and Cinema/Media Studies.*

Turn On? *Honesty, honestly.*

Turn Off? *Artifice.*

If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *MacIntosh because I threw up there and therefore I feel like I left a piece of myself behind.*

What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"Guinness is good for you."*

If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Kanye West and Pusha T because I would be "Runaway" and "Runaway" is The Jam second only to "Mr. Brightside."*

What TV genre best describes you? *Comedy-in-theory.*

What's your type? *Aloof-ish.*

What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *"Have you seen Magic Mike XXL." —me.*

If you were any social space, what would it be? *The Hub because the sidehang on the porch is always strong.*

What would your perfect date be? *Watching Magic Mike XXL with someone who understands.*

If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Vibes because my friend Rico runs it and therefore it's the coolest group on campus.*

What's your patronus and why? *Rooney Mara on a talk show.*

If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Irony for irony's sake.*

What are three things you cannot live without?*Other people (I know technically "hell is other people," but I live through the idea that the opposite is true), good conversation and art.*

Where do you go when you want to be alone? *The movies.*

What's the weirdest thing currently in your room? *A fireman's helmet.*

What whould you say is your faculty crush? *Marianne Janack, duh.*

What would you say is your campus crush? *My best friend Jason Fortunato.*

What would you give a thumbs up? *Drinking too much at Trivia Night.*

What would you give a thumbs down? *Not being sober enough to answer the final round at Trivia Night.*

If you were a food, which would you be and why? *TCBs.*

Fools for the first

Love pulling pranks and messing with your friends? April Fool's Day must be your favorite holiday, so we're here to help you celebrate the right way: with some creative pranks. All levels of prank -sperience welcomed.

by Cilly Geranios '19 and Molly Geisinger '19
Features Co-Editors

1. Hide under your bed when you know your roommate will be coming home soon and then pop out to scare the unsuspecting victim.

2. Tape a sign to your friend's back saying, "Bonus swipes are on me."

3. Consume your friend's alcohol stash and refill the empty botles with grape juice (wine), water (vodka) or ginger ale (beer).

4. Unplug your friend's charging phone at night... We reccomend 1:03 am.

5. If you've got whipped cream or shaving cream handy, spray some in a sleeping friend's palm and then tickle their nose with a feather.

6. Text a friend in the middle of the night, again we recommend between midnight and sunrise, that you've got a body with no place to put it. Wait to see who's your real friend.

7. On Martin's Way, make direct eye contact with anyone in your path for longer than five seconds.

8. Call a carpet cleaning service requesting help for blood stains in carpet... Prepare for police intervention.

9. Go to Diner and ask for a single chicken tender. If you're offered a meal, refuse.

10. Pack cotton balls in a snack container (a plastic baggie or tupperware). Pull out your packed snack in the middle of studying and commence snacking. If confronted, aggressively chew while maintaining eye contact.

11. Walk through KJ toward the water feature in full swim gear. Not simply your swimsuit, but a wetsuit if you can find one, as well as goggles, a swimcap and flippers. Dip your right flipper and then leave because it's too cold.

12. Stand on the balcony of the gym and begin cheering for the rock climbers below. If possible, we recommend full cheerleading costumes, complete with pom-poms, a foam finger and face paint.

13. On the bridge, heckle pedestrians for money. You're now the bridge troll and they must pay a toll. Wear an outfit that reflects your new position (a colorful wig, bellybutton gems and ugly colors recommended).

14. If you live with a roommate, begin redecorating the room—perhaps even rearranging the furniture. We suggest obnoxiously bright posters or overly sexual imagery.

15. Paint your face orange, acquire a blond wig with amazing volume and questionable style. On your snapchat story, report alternative news.

***16.** Begin stripping while the *Star Wars* theme song plays in the background. If questioned, say you're starting a rival streaking team and open to new recruits. Request their contact info.

***17.** Put laxatives in a Commons salt shaker to give everyone the "Commons runs" for real.

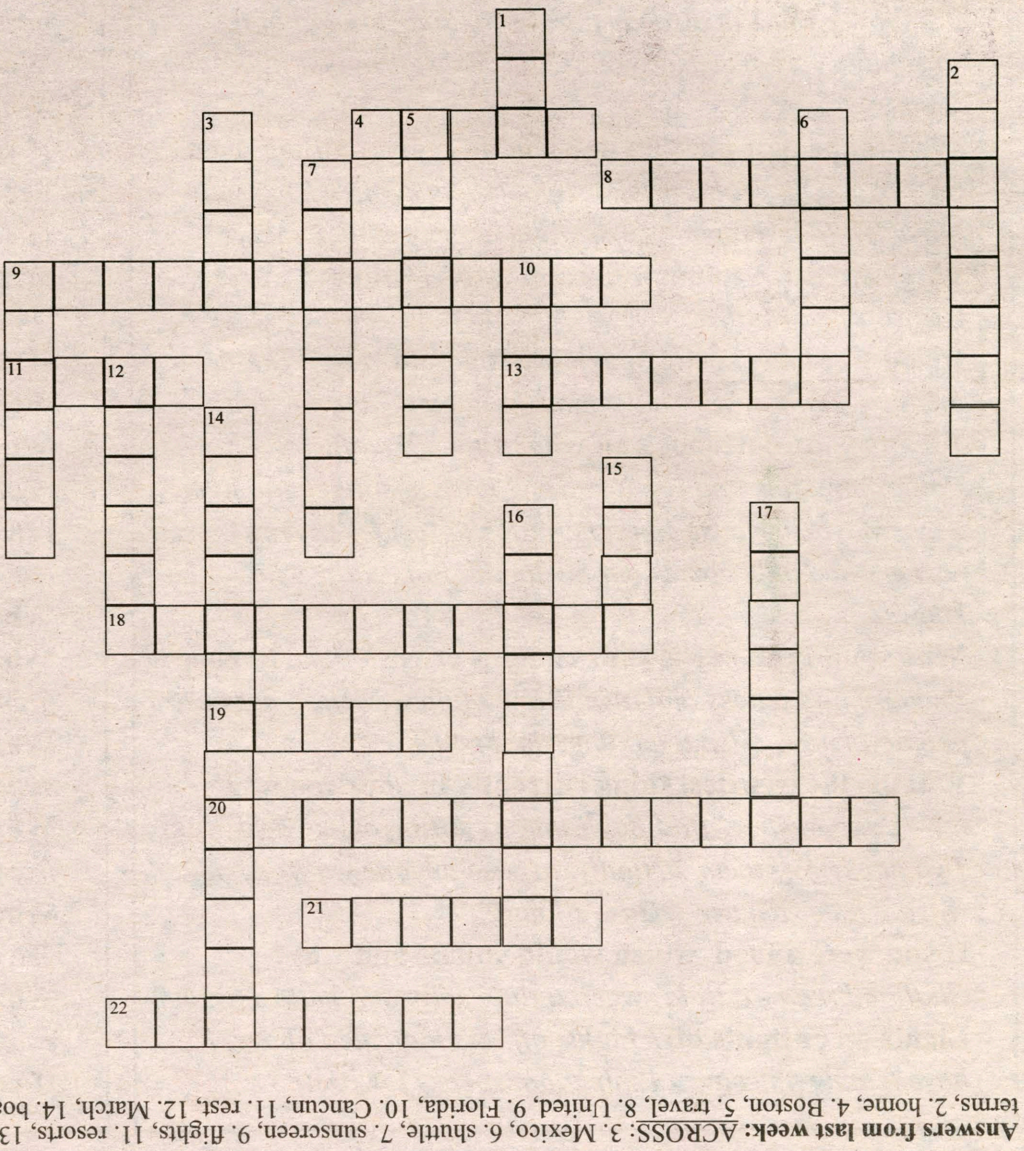
* *WARNING: Advanced level of prank-sperience strongly suggested. Proceed at your own risk*

This crossword is fit for those jokesters whose favorite holiday is, and will forever be, April Fool's Day. Even if you're not jiggy with your mischievious inner self, take a gander through this week's crossword and keep your eye open for some kooky tricks! Good luck!

by Cilly Geranios '19 and Molly Geisinger '19
Features Co-Editors

Across:
4. A mischievous act.
8. The collective noun for a group of baboons (seriously).
9. The day friends engage in many #4.
11. A pirate's favorite letter of the alphabet.
13. The day to have a pedicure.
18. A jab well done.
19. The collective noun for a group of ducks.
20. A toddler that refuses a nap.
21. The collective noun for a group of protestors.
22. The shortest word to use abcdef.

Down:
1. Play on words.
2. The time of day with the slowest traffic.
3. A dead giveaway.
5. A hard tea to swallow.
6. The best day to ingest potatoes offered at Diner.
7. The reason a bike can't stand on its own. It is _______.
9. An octopus is _______. (Also the worst thing you hear in the morning).
10. What do a screaming baby and a jury member have in common?
12. When you pull of a mischievous act you might exclaim, "I _____!"
14. The fattest man at King Arthur's round table... He eats a lotta pi.
15. A thing said causing amusement or laughter.
16. Made eye contact with her. Alternatively, also something done to a wound.
17. A backward poet writes this way.



Answers from last week: ACROSS: 3. Mexico, 6. shuttle, 7. sunscreen, 9. flights, 11. resorts, 13. Alternative Spring Break, 15. car, 16. NYC, 17. Netflix. DOWN: 1. midterms, 2. home, 4. Boston, 5. travel, 8. United, 9. Florida, 10. Cancun, 11. rest, 12. March, 14. boat.

CARS & CULTURE

Thomas J. Watson Fellowship for 2016

by Helen Sternberg '20
Staff Wrtier

Hamilton is one of 40 colleges and universities that offers students the unique opportunity to become a Watson Scholar. The Thomas J. Watson Fellowship Scholarship allows graduating seniors to spend a year abroad working on a project that they have brainstormed.

Students apply with an idea for a project that interests them and that must be conducted abroad. With few other requirements, projects range from tackling poverty in developing countries to immersing oneself in foreign cultures and learning cultural differences on the view of death. Those who receive the scholarship must demonstrate leadership, imagination and resourcefulness, among a long list of other criteria.

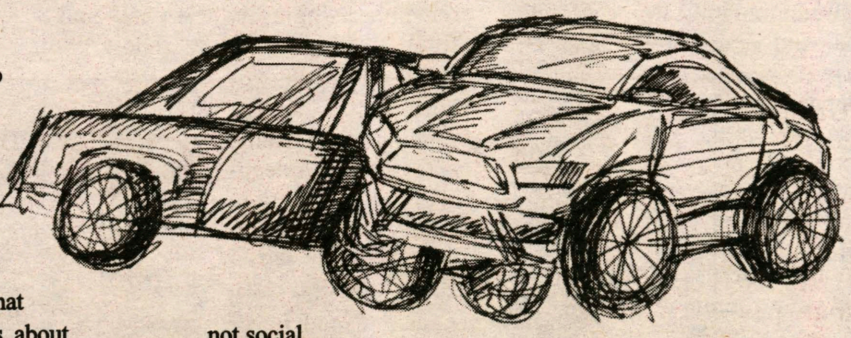
Benjamin Wesley '16 was one of two Hamilton students to have received the scholarship last year, and is now traveling abroad to places, such as Japan and South Africa to pursue his passion for cars.

"My project examines how customized vehicles, think Fast and Furious, and their owners can be used to understand national culture," Wesley said.

Wesley's interest in cars runs deep. Throughout his time in high school and college, his fascination became increasingly technical. He initially wanted to understand the mechanical aspects of cars, but after discovering the YouTube channel, "Regular Car Reviews," in which the video's narrator picks apart where a car fits into society rather than explaining the technical aspects, he found his inspiration for his Watson fellowship.

Wesley, who is currently in Brazil, is already making many discoveries about how car culture differs abroad from what it is here in the U.S.

"In Brazil, families that are wealthy tend to stay wealthy, because they can afford private high school and have strong connections in the government. But I came across a family where everyone in the most recent generations are lawyers, doctors [or] high level government employees except for two cousins who work on cars," Wesley said. "I wrote a piece for my website about them and how that speaks volumes about the individualism that exists in Brazilian society."



BY HEIDI WONG '20

The two cousins Wesley mentioned gave up a wealthy lifestyle to pursue their passion for cars, a decision that their family supported. What surprised Wesley about this was that Americans usually emphasize how unique they are for the fact that they can make individual choices, but these two Brazilian cousins made the same choices. Perhaps Americans are not as unique as they think they are.

Wesley is not only learning about the differences in car culture in foreign countries, but also forming conclusions on many aspects of cross-cultural interference.

"Right now I'm in Rio staying in a Favela, [Brazilian slum] and I'm reconsidering whether or not social work here would even be helpful, because everyone here is happy and has what they need to live healthy lives, they just don't have much money. They live fine in a peaceful community and, on the whole, seem happy. This is just based on the opinions of a couple of people working here, but maybe they don't need outside money or help," Wesley said.

This may very well be the focal point of the Fellowship: to let students make discoveries that they did not intend on making. Cultural immersion has always been, and will remain, one of the most effective ways to learn. Upon meeting a winner of a Fulbright scholarship on his journey, Wesley now understands the true importance of studying abroad.

"She had a theory that the year out of the country is actually extremely useful [in] breaking the 'High School, College, Job or Grad school, one acre, 1.5 kids and a white picket fence' mentality," he said.

The discoveries he's making abroad are even affecting the ones he made back at home, allowing him to open his mind to new possibilities.

"I graduated as a Biochemistry major, and for my [project] I decided to start a website. Now I'm contemplating going into Automotive Journalism, Car Accessories, Consulting, or even Engineering in addition to a Genetics Job or Postgrad Biochemistry research."

LIFE OF A MILBANK RESIDENT ADVISOR

by Molly Geisinger '19 and Cilly Geranios '19
Features Co-Editors

Emily Randrup '17

PHOTOS COURTESY OF EMILY RANDRUP '17

Name: *Emily Randrup*

Dorm on campus: *Milbank*

Dream dorm: *Rogers nine years ago.*

Favorite responsibility: *Bulletin Boards #arts&crafts.*

Least favorite responsibility: *Fire Drills. Standing out in the cold is negative 10 fun (just like the temperature).*

Weirdest thing found on a room inspection: *An iguana under a bed.*

Most interesting thing heard through the wall? *Literally anything said in Milbank on a Saturday night at 2 a.m.*

Favorite request from a resident: *"Can I wear your pajamas?"*

Worst timing of a fire alarm: *As a resident my first year, while in the shower, in January... My hair froze.*

Shade up or down: *Three-quarters of the way down.*

What activity should be penalized that isn't already: *Fornicating with the blinds open.*

Door locked or unlocked? *Unlocked. (How else can my residents get condoms from the condom and confetti cup?).*

Favorite door decoration: *Snowflakes made with my Assistant to the RA (@beccagorlin).*

Worst thing you walked in on: *A room so messy with dirty clothes on the floor that I couldn't walk across it.*

Pet peeve: *When people ask me for my master key (FYI: they're kept in Res Life, not in our rooms).*

Program you wish you could do: *Free hour-long massages for everyone. Or going to Rockin' Jump.*

On the next installment of Bachelorette and Bachelor:

It could be YOU

Interested? Email us at featspec@hamilton.edu

Hamilton voices in Italy

by Christopher Albino '20
A&E Contributor

Over Spring Break, the Hamilton Choir toured and performed in different cities throughout Italy. Rome, Florence, Ravenna and Venice offered indescribable sights and experiences that my choir and I encountered while performing. It is impossible to decide which destination I prefered.

Rome presented a historical treasure trove, allowing us to visit the site of Caesar's death during the ides of March. Rome also gave us an opportunity to sing at the Vatican where the acoustics were to die for. Amid the pictures and the miles we walked throughout the day, Rome lived up to the stories describing the golden age of the Roman Republic.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER ALBINO '20

While touring Italy, the Choir performed in historic venues like The Vatican and The Doma.

The city was full of tourists, but is also home to massive buildings that survived the passage of time such as the Coliseum, the Pantheon, and St. Peter's Basilica. We were fortunate enough to visit the Sistine Chapel and look up to see "The Creation of Adam" by Michelangelo.

When the choir reached Florence, we were immediately captivated by the change in scenery and the atmosphere of the city. Personally, I will always remember singing with a pizza maker from Naples, while my fellow choir members and I enjoyed some of the best Pizza that we have ever had in our lives. The artistry and musicianship inside the city was also a highlight of Florence.

Meanwhile, Ravenna was home to many mosaics that we saw. Many of them depicted the 12 disciples, Jesus, angels and countless other religious figures.

Our last performance in Venice brought tears to listeners and performers eyes alike. Adding to the challenge of impressing the audience was the looming fact that this was the last choir tour that we would take part in with choir conductor Rob Kolb. Therefore, our last concert, although we were riddled with sore throats and sickness, was something to witness. Complemented by the rich acoustics of San Marco church, our final performance echoed the quality of its predecessors and required an encore to satisfy the crowd.

The effect this tour had on much of the choir and myself was providing us with an even deeper appreciation for music.

The realization that singing has been a commonplace between those who lived in ancient Rome and Hamilton students was incredible. Being able to sing in structures such as The Vatican that were worked on by the likes of Michelangelo is immense.

The trip was truly an experience that I will never forget, and it has inspired me to take steps to soon return to Italy.

Best and Blume brighten midterm season

by Zac Ball '20
A&E Contributor

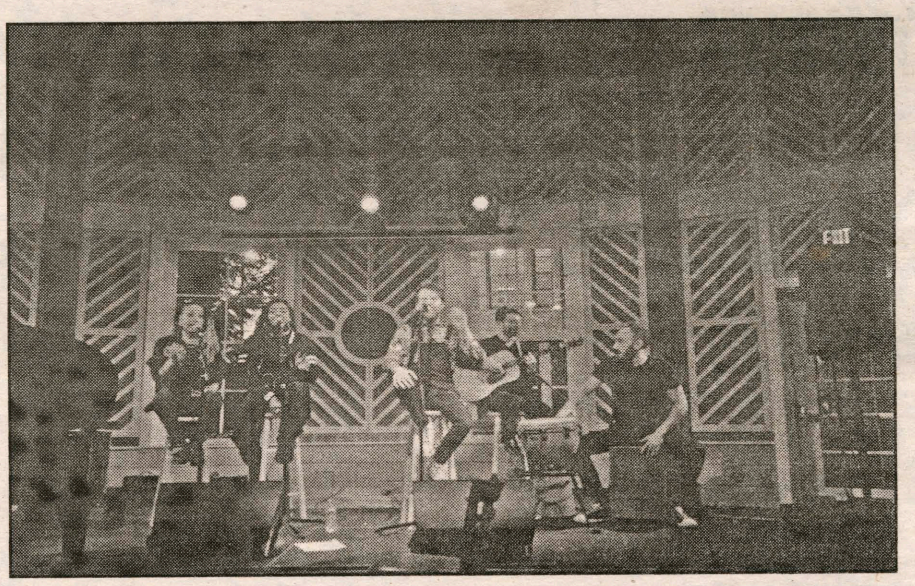


PHOTO COURTESY OF KT GLUSAC '17

Despite minimal audience attendance, Best and Blume captivated the crowd with their music and likeable personalities.

On the Thursday before Spring Break, CAB brought Jess Best and Michael Blume to Hamilton for an electric performance in the Events Barn. Jess Best, an amazing young artist, and her four-piece band, opened for Blume with songs from their self-produced album. Her beautiful falsetto in songs like "More" gave the audience goosebumps. During her set, she gave shoutouts to each of her band members, who brought her soulful sound together. Unfortunately, not many people were in attendance because of midterms, but Best congratulated those who made it out for having the wherewithal to use music as a distraction from the stress of testing.

Best worked the mic throughout her set, singing emotional and personal songs that rang throughout the Barn. At one point, she stopped to tell the story of one of the band's albums that was written and recorded in one of the band member's childhood homes. The band did this as a tribute to the family and their home, which was being sold. The song, called "Kitchen," painted a picture of a loving, affectionate home with lines like "I love you like coffee in the morning." Best ended her set with a song about her father's childhood, and preceded the song by saying, "I don't usually say the exact inspiration for a song because I think it limits other people's possibilities." This time, however, everyone in the audience could understand her intended emotions. Best's band had a soulful sound, and was the perfect opener for R&B artist, Michael Blume.

Blume followed Best with an emotional R&B set, accompanied by a guitarist, a percussionist and two background singers. The acoustic guitar, barstool drum and harmonies from his background singers enhanced his soulful performance. His songs represent difficulties Blume has faced in his own life, while also tackling issues that he sees growing in society around him. He said of his song "Manufactured Love" that "Love is getting f***ed by things and that's messed up." He also talked about feeling left out of traditional romantic structures while growing up as a gay man, and how that experience affected his perception of what it means to be loved. He translates all of these experiences and feelings into an electric set that made the audience in the Barn swoon for his deep and melodic voice. His music, though tackling serious topics, appeals to audiences because it is upbeat and captivating. Blume transitions from just singing to performing on the piano–representing his versatility as an artist.

Overall, Best and Blume complimented each other well, and entertained those able to make it out in the midst of midterms.

WHCL 88.7FM

Show Profile:

Almost Midnight Snack

Thursdays at 10 p.m.

with...

Audrey Darnis '18 and Dan Horgan '18

Our show is great! (Maybe we're a little biased). We tend to know a good amount about the songs that we play, so we often provide some nice or relevant background information to our tracks.

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The DJs of Almost Midnight Snack tend to do a theme each week. These themes are usually announced via Facebook status, and often revolve around genres.

Typical Playlist:

"Cold Little Heart"
- Michael Kiwanuka

"Every Single Thing"
- HOMESHAKE

"Love/Paranoia"
- Tame Impala

"Lovely Day"
- Alt-J

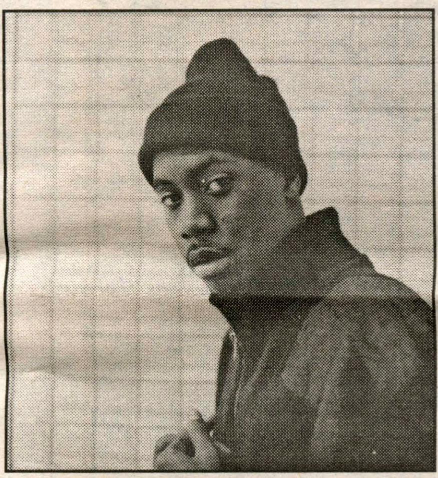
Established in 1941, WHCL is a non-profit, student-run, free-form radio station. Located atop College Hill in the beautiful village of Clinton, New York, it boasts 270 watts of power and runs 20 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Who is the best rapper ever?

by Grant Whitney '17
A&E CONTRIBUTOR

Since its conception and mainstream growth in the 1970's and 1980's, rap music has transformed into a diverse genre in American music, in terms of both sound and content. What began as simplistic rhyme schemes delivered by MCs like Melle Mel now includes a wide array of rappers, from Kendrick Lamar to Domo Genesis and more. The proliferation of rap invites the question: Who is the best rapper ever? This debate is highly contentious and wholly subjective, but I will attempt to answer nonetheless. Full disclosure: There will be no mention of Lil Yachty on this list—give him time.

Part of the difficulty in answering this question lies in the far-ranging role of rappers. For the purpose of this article, the ideal best rapper ever would excel in several categories: flawless delivery, meaningful content, consistently high quality raps and linguistic ability. Let's break down each one of these elements.



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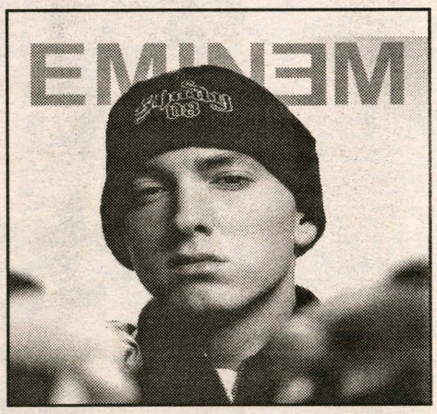
Nas discusses social injustice in his multisyllabic rhymes and beats.

Delivery involves a certain level of understanding of how to use tone and dynamics over the beat to express a message. It is closely intertwined with "flow"—the rhythmic element of rap—although not entirely the same thing. The Notorious B.I.G., or Biggie, was the indisputable master of both delivery and flow. His voice enhanced the beat through an uncanny ability to feel the music. "Hypnotize" is the archetype for perfect flow; it combines Biggie's undefinable yet perfect "rap voice" with a seamless harmony of lyrics and instrumentals, all over Diddy's absolutely filthy beat.

As flawless as Biggie's delivery was, his unfortunate early death left us with only a small sample of his rapping ability. Moreover, the content of his rap focused more on materialism and a less-than-deep meaning of life than anything else. This area is where Nas excelled, particularly through arguably the greatest rap album of all time, *Illmatic*. The album immediately propelled Nas into rap royalty through its shockingly raw depiction of Queensbridge, NY. Nas's ability to express the brutal truth about social injustice and modest life through complex, multisyllabic rhymes gave his rap enormous meaning. Very few rap albums, including Kendrick Lamar's *Good Kid, M.A.A.D City,* have incorporated such meaning into their songs.

As much as I would have liked to, I still can't honestly call Nas the best rapper ever. None of his albums after *Illmatic* displayed the same virtuosity and authenticity. This highlights a common theme among rappers – the tendency to burn out or sell out to pop music. Very few rappers/rap groups have avoided this fate. Outkast released consistently fantastic albums throughout the 90s and early 2000s. However, neither André 3000 nor Big Boi have had impressive solo albums. Jay-Z may have been the biggest name in the rap game during that same time, as he released 12 solo albums in the 90's and 2000's, but Jay-Z's raps generally lack the deep meaning seen in *Illmatic* and the rawness heard in Kendrick or N.W.A.'s music.

So who is the greatest of all time? Plenty of rappers have reliably shown ingenious flow, lyrics that make you think twice and a mastery of lyricism, but only one has displayed incredible talent in all these categories: Eminem. Ever since his debut in 1996, Eminem has pumped out album after album. He is the best-selling rap artist of all time. His delivery is uniquely combative. Eminem raps as if he has a personal vendetta against the beat, balancing harsh aggression and sarcasm with ease. While his content has garnered criticism for its outlandish lyrics, one listen through any of his albums tells a tortured story of his strained (at best) relationship with his mother and his deadbeat father, his fierce defense of his daughters, his tumultuous relationship with Kim Mathers and his disdain for music industry critics. Lyrically, Eminem is unparalleled. He layers rhyme over rhyme, often rhyming multisyllabic words both inside and across lines. A close analysis of his "Lose Yourself" reveals incredibly complex rhyme schemes without losing the content of his message. His demolition on Jay-Z's "Renegade"—one of Jay-Z's best and most sincere songs—proved that Eminem is on another level. We are lucky to have grown up with his music.



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Drawing from personal experience, rappers like Eminem use their craft to tell their stories.

Of course, there is no objectively perfect rapper. Eminem will always have his die-hard supporters (Stans), just as Kendrick, Kanye and countless others will have theirs. Listening to Kendrick compete for the title of GOAT has been a pleasure, and I am excited for his future work. Feel free to send me your thoughts on the debate; I'll always welcome the opportunity to listen to good rap music.

As a postscript, I thought long and hard about including 2Pac. 2Pac was an incredible artist, and he was arguably the most poetic rapper mentioned in this piece. His songwriting ability was among the best in the rap game, and I would argue that he would be the best rapper ever if rapping only consisted of artistry. But 2Pac made 11 studio albums to Biggie's two, and we still can't decide who is better between the two of them. I'm not convinced that 2Pac would have achieved the level of fame that he did were it not for Biggie.

Cukor challenges social norms and legitimizes divorce in '30s film

by Ghada Emish '19
STAFF WRITER

One of the gems of 1930s cinema, *The Philadelphia Story,* directed by George Cukor, demonstrates the necessity of divorce in society. At a time when married couples could not obtain a divorce, the film argues for an open-minded consideration of the legitimacy of divorce. Cukor takes a rather sophisticated approach to divorce by emphasizing that even adults change over time and, thus, are subject to not being able to reconcile their differences after a period of being married.

The film stars Katherine Hepburn, Cary Grant and James Stewart. Hepburn plays Tracy Lord, a recently divorced woman whose extreme appreciation of aesthetics leads her to denounce alcohol. Her ex-husband, Dexter—played by Grant, could not tolerate Tracy's inability to accept his inclination to drink, and, as a result, his thirst for alcohol became more intense. This led to an increasing grudge between the couple, and the two divorced. Tracy is about to remarry when Dexter invites himself to her house with a newspaper writer, Connor—played by Stewart—and, Tracy's worst nightmare, a photographer. Dexter finds Tracy's future husband, George, quite an unfitting choice for Tracy in terms of the former's personality and mind.

Through the short yet reactive conversations that occur between Tracy and Dexter, it becomes clear that the latter has matured during his time away from his ex-wife. Dexter drinks less. He realizes that Tracy is suffering from an obsession with seeing herself as a higher entity that rejects human imperfection. He is not, however, back to face her with this fact in order to avenge himself. He goes back to face the reasons of their failed marriage with her.

Tracy's rejection of human imperfection is paralleled with society's denial of a couple's right to obtain a divorce. The film argues that the time Tracy and Dexter spent apart was quite necessary for them to have a constructive conversation. Thus, married couples should have the right to choose if getting a divorce is necessary to avoid a growing grudge that could drive them to irrevocably dislike one another.

Cukor succeeds in presenting Tracy as a woman whose vanity is unmistakable in her elevated-shoulder clothes. Her manner of speech indicates her wit and confidence. It is outstanding to find a female leading character in a '30s blockbuster from one of the most brilliant Hollywood directors.

Nowadays, I believe Hollywood lacks this kind of serious, socially-oriented production which revolves around a female character. This makes *The Philadelphia Story* a piece that modern filmmakers and audience should look up to.

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In the film, Katherine Hepburn plays a lead female role as Tracy Ford.

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Women's lacrosse ranked No. 17 in D-III poll for 3-1 conference record

by Mary Lundin '19
Sports Writer

Having excelled throughout a challenging but successful training week in Florida over spring break, the Hamilton women's lacrosse team returned home on Tuesday, March 21 to boast an 8-4 win over Skidmore College on Hamilton's Steuben Field.

The Continentals were led by Jackie Cuddy '18, who scored three goals, along with Alex Hendry '19, Darby Philbrick '18, Morgan Fletcher '17, Skyler Simson '20 and Nora Klemmer '17, who each netted one goal. Hannah Burrall '19 and Hannah Rubin '17 were solid in net for Hamilton, with Burrall starting in goal and making five saves and Rubin stopping three shots while yielding just one goal.

The Continentals fell into a two goal deficit at the beginning of the game, but were quickly aided by Pooley and Philbrick netting the Continentals' first goal about five minutes into play. Another goal by Hendry about a minute later and a goal by Fletcher assisted by Simson gave Hamilton the lead. Finally, Hendry passed to Klemmer for a 4-2 advantage followed by Cuddy, receiving an assist from Philbrick, establishing a three-goal lead for the Continentals.

The second half began with the Continentals widening their lead to a four-point-differential with a pass from Tatiana Bradley '19 and subsequent goal by Cuddy. With about seven minutes left in play, Simson received a pass from Fletcher, shooting past Skidmore goalie Megan Kolopsky from point-blank range.

Two days later, the Continentals traveled to SUNY Oneonta, continuing their winning streak to three games, in a non-conference matchup. The Continentals had a strong start, with strong play from Morgan Fletcher, whose first goal tied the score and whose subsequent two goals helped push the Continentals' lead to 6-3. Additionally, Pooley, Casey File '17 and Klemmer each added three goals throughout the course of the game.

Oneonta came out strong to start the second half, quickly scoring three of the first four goals of the second half, narrowing the Continentals' lead to ten. Klemmer, off an assist by Pooley, and Cuddy each added another goal to widen the Continentals' lead. Additionally, Hamilton's defense proved incredibly strong, bolstered by Burrall, who stopped three shots in the first half and by Rubin and Eleni Neyland '18 who together added four saves.

Additionally, Burrall, Philbrick, Gabby O'Brien '19 and Sarah Kaiser '19 each scooped up a pair of ground balls. As for draw controls, Pooley gained three, while File, Kaiser, and Charlotte Wynn '20 secured two.

Two days later, the women traveled to Amherst College's Lehrman Stadium in their fourth NESCAC matchup of the season. Here, the Continentals grabbed another win adding to their now four-game winning streak.

With utmost determination and exceptional skill, Philbrick, assisted by Klemmer, and Fletcher each found the back of the net in the first 71 seconds of play. Amherst, eager to control the game, went on a three-goal run to take a 3-2 lead with about 11 minutes left in play. With just under a minute left in the first half, Pooley scored again, creating a 3-3 tie going into intermission.

> **"The competitiveness and drive we all have to win is what really drove us into spring break and started our win streak."**
> —*Gabby O'Brien '19*

Beginning the second half determined to retake the lead from the nationally-ranked No. 18 Continentals, Amherst climbed ahead about four minutes into play; however, the Continentals quickly responded to even the score. About two minutes later, Philbrick scored the tying goal off an assist by Fletcher. The Continentals retained the lead, with subsequent goals by File and Klemmer, making the final score 7-4.

In reference to the four game win streak, O'Brien commented, "A lot of work has gone into this season so far and has really been paying off!" adding, "The competitiveness and drive we all have to win is what really drove us into spring break and started our win streak." While they did not start on the foot they wanted to, O'Brien noted that losing three out of their first four games has only driven the team to succeed: "We had a tough start to the season that really tested our passion and drive when we were faced with adversity. The early losses really motivated us to work even harder and keep pushing each other to be better." O'Brien credits Hamilton's success to the "win this moment" mantra that the coaching staff has impressed upon the team saying, "taking each practice, game, and moment at a time has allowed us to be more successful as a whole."

The Continentals resume play Saturday, April 1, at 11 a.m. against Bates College at Hamilton's Steuben Field. Currently, Hamilton is ranked 17th in the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association Division III Top 20 poll released on March 27. Hamilton's 3-1 conference record puts them int a in a three-way tie for second in the highly-competitive NESCAC with six conference games left to play. Last season, the Continentals finished sixth in the NESCAC during the regular season; they hope to best that performance this year.

Buitenhuis '18 named men's hockey Player of the Year for dominant winter season

by Patrick Malin '18
Sports Editor

Goaltender Evan Buitenhuis '18 was selected as the winner of the Sid Watson Award, designating the Division III Men's Hockey Player of the Year. The award is selected by the American Hockey Coaches Association. Buitenhuis is the first Hamilton player to ever receive the accolade. In addition to being selected player of the year, the Burlington, Ontario, Canada native was chosen to the Men's Hockey Division III All-America Team. These accomplishments cap off a season for Buitenhuis where he was named 2017 NESCAC Player of the Year at the conclusion of the regular season.

Buitenhuis led the Continentals to one of their most successful seasons in program history. Hamilton finished the season with a record of 20-5-4, including an NCAA Tournament appearance. In the first round of the Division III NCAA tournament, Buitenhuis held SUNY-Oswego to one goal, making 34 saves in the historic victory.

Buitenhuis had a dominant season between the pipes for the Continentals this season, and was the key to the immense regular and postseason success of the team. Buitenhuis finished the season fourth in Division III hockey with a .941 save percentage. The junior goaltender was the king of consistency all season, logging 1,581 minutes in net during the 2016-17 campaign. He posted an impressive 1.78 goals against average, starting in all but three of the Continentals' 29 games this season. In 24 of his 26 starts, Buitenhuis allowed fewer than three goals.

Buitenhuis has been puting up excellent numbers throughout his career for Hamilton, and his improvement has had clear impact on the team as a whole. During his freshman season, the Continentals finished in sixth in the NESCAC. The following year, Hamilton earned a home playoff game with a fourth place finish in one of the toughest conferences in collegiate hockey. This season, Buitenhuis anchored the dominant Hamilton back-line that progressed to the team's first NESCAC championship appearance. Buitenhuis holds a 1.77 goals against average and a .942 save percentage in 53 career starts, tallying 1,550 career saves to claim fifth place on the Hamilton all-time list.

With one year remaining at Hamilton, Buitenhuis will hope to become the first Sid Watson award winner to repeat as player of the year. The Continentals will return many of their top scorers, defenders, and playmakers from this season's NCAA tournament team. Topping a player of the year season is no easy task, but Buitenhuis has worked tirelessly to improve throughout his career and has the potential to solidify his position as one of Hamilton's greatest student-athletes with another strong season in 2017-18.

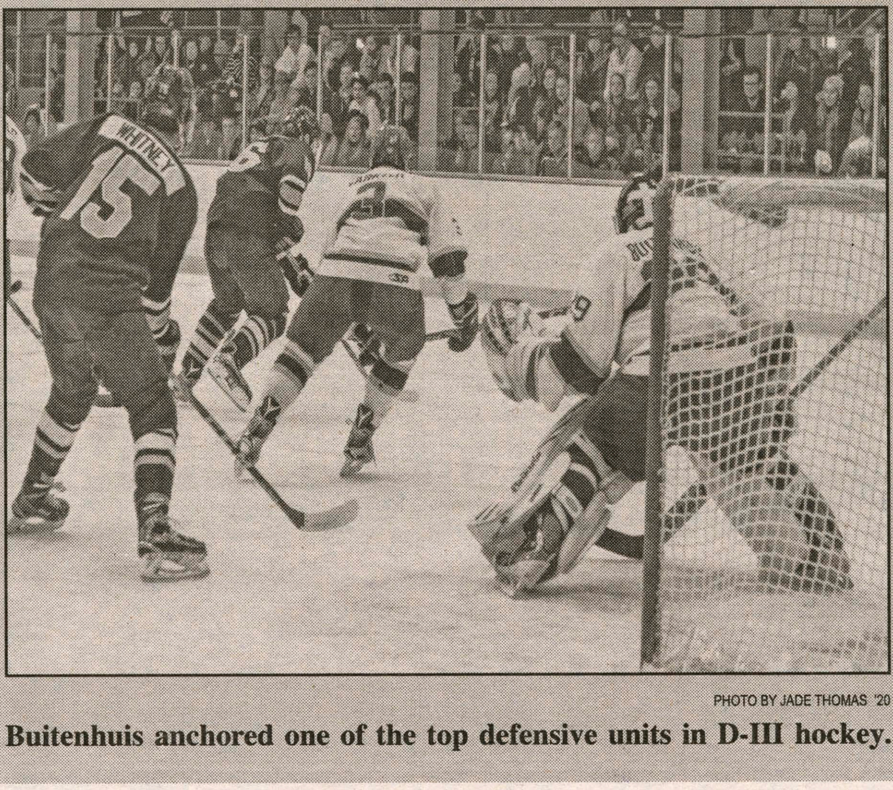

PHOTO BY JADE THOMAS '20

Buitenhuis anchored one of the top defensive units in D-III hockey.

Men's lacrosse prepares for NESCAC match-up against No. 6 Bates

from M. Lacrosse, page 16

at the half, but put the game out of reach in the third. They scored seven goals and only allowed one en route to a 17-7 victory. Hamilton's men's lacrosse team had two more games back on campus over break.

At the start the second week of break, the Continentals hosted Nazareth College. Hamilton jumped out to a three-goal lead halfway through the first quarter; however, the Golden Flyers defense clamped down and only allowed two goals the rest of the game. Nazareth scored three goals in the last 41 seconds of the first quarter to tie the game. They used this momentum to absolutely dominate the second quarter, scoring seven goals and taking a 10-4 lead to the half. The second half was significantly lower scoring, and the Continentals lost by a final score of 15-5. Nazareth was able to control possession by winning 10 more faceoffs than Hamilton; however, Hamilton was able to take 40 shots.

The Continentals second game of the week was a NESCAC game; this past Saturday, they hosted 10th-ranked Amherst College. Amherst boasts a very potent offense and entered the game averaging over 13 goals per game. Amherst scored at least three goals in every quarter and totaled 17 in the game. They captured the momentum by scoring two goals in the game's opening minutes. Amherst won 23 of 29 face-offs and won 21 more ground balls than the Continentals. Hamilton's offense was fierce: they took 48 shots and six players scored at least one goal. Henry Hill '19 led the way, scoring a career-high three goals. McCollum '19 added in two goals and one assist, and Nate Weinrauch '17 had two assists. Hamilton's goalies played well, combining for 17 saves. Weissmann '18 made nine saves in the first half and Schisler had eight in the second. This game wrapped up an intense "break" for the team.

On Tuesday, the Continentals hosted St. John Fisher. The game was tied 3-3 at the half, but the Continentals used a 4-2 third quarter to grab control of the game. They won by a final score 8-6. McCollum had a hat trick and also contributed one assist, and Brock Bowers '20 scored two goals. The Continentals won 12 of 16 face-offs, which was essential in protecting their lead.

Head Coach Scott Barnard said that the team enjoyed their break and were happy to avoid the snowstorm. He went on to say that the team is working "to improve on the defensive end of the field while finishing more of our opportunities on the offensive side of the ball."

This Saturday, Hamilton will travel to face sixth-ranked Bates College. The Continentals will not have any home games until the second week of April. The team will travel to Vermont to take on an evenly-matched Middlebury team before taking on the undefeated Tufts Jumbos. After just four NESCAC games, the Continentals are tied for the final conference playoff spot.

PHOTO BY JULIAN PERRICONE '20

Hamilton took down non-conference opponent St. John Fisher 8-6.

Consecutive shut-outs over Bowdoin highlight baseball team's Florida trip

*from **Baseball,** page 16*

players, Dean Rosenberg '18 and Collins, hit back-to-back solo home runs. Keene's only run came off of a runner reaching on a dropped third strike. He later scored the run off of a wild pitch. The game was shortened due to NCAA mercy rules - Hamilton was leading by 10 or more runs after seven innings.

Hamilton's next doubleheader was a set against Dickinson College on March 17, which they split, dropping the first and taking the second game. In the first match-up, a 5-1 loss for the Continentals, Hamilton, struggled offensively, garnering only two hits compared to Dickinson's 11. Craig Sandford '19 drove in Hamilton's run, scored by Ian Nish '19, with a grounder to second. The second game of the day featured lots of hitting by both teams, resulting in a 12-8 Hamilton win. The Continentals trailed for the first three innings, then found their stride in the fourth and sixth, with five and seven runs respectively. Dickinson's performance was hindered by poor fielding, as they had eight errors between the two games.

The Continentals squared up against the NESCAC East's Bowdoin College Polar Bears in yet another doubleheader on March 20 and shut out the team in back-to-back games. Their effort was bolstered by solid pitching from Dan DePaoli '18, Chris Keane '20 and four relievers between the two games. In the first match-up, DePaoli pitched the entire game and threw his first collegiate shutout, allowing just four hits in seven innings, and Hamilton won 3-0. Not to be denied another strong showing, Hamilton blew threw Bowdoin in the second game, tallying five runs in the bottom of the third. Highlights included a double by Craig Sandford and another home run by Chris Collins, whose strong hitting continued from earlier success. Hamilton took the second game 6-0 and swept the series.

Then, Hamilton split another doubleheader, this time against the Elmhurst College Blue Jays on March 21. The Continentals carried the first game 8-7 despite being outhit 10-7. Ryan Wolfsberg again had a strong offensive showing tallying five RBIs, including a three-run homer and a walk-off RBI single in the bottom of the seventh. Reliever Brett Sandford '19 pitched the seventh inning for his first collegiate win. The Blue Jays blanked the Continentals in game two, resulting in a 4-0 victory. Elmhurst turned crucial double plays in both the third and the fourth innings to strand Hamilton's runners and maintain their lead.

Hamilton wrapped up spring break play in Florida with another doubleheader on March 22 against Clarkson University. They again split the series, shutting out the Golden Knights in the first game and dropping the second 7-2. In the first match-up, Finlay O'Hara '17 pitched the entire game, allowing only two hits and two runners past first base. Wolfsberg drove in the Continentals' first run, his team-leading sixth RBI, and sacrifice flies in the third and fourth from Craig Sandford and Chris Collins gave Hamilton a 3-0 win. The Golden Knights opened up scoring early in the second game, tallying four runs in the first inning. Hamilton answered with two runs in the fourth, but the Continentals could not catch up and lost 7-2.

The Continentals finished spring break play with a record of 6-5 and will face Utica College at home on Thursday, March 30, beginning a stretch of 10 games in 11 days. Their first conference test will be a three-game series against Wesleyan University on March 31 and April 1 in Middletown, CT. This will be a difficult test for the Continentals, as the Cardinals hold an impressive 9-3 overall record. Next week Hamilton plays six games, all at home. The Continentals host SUNY Canton on Tuesday, April 4, SUNY Oswego on Wednesday, April 5 and doubleheaders against SUNY Brockport and SUNY Polytechnic on April 8 and 9, respectively.

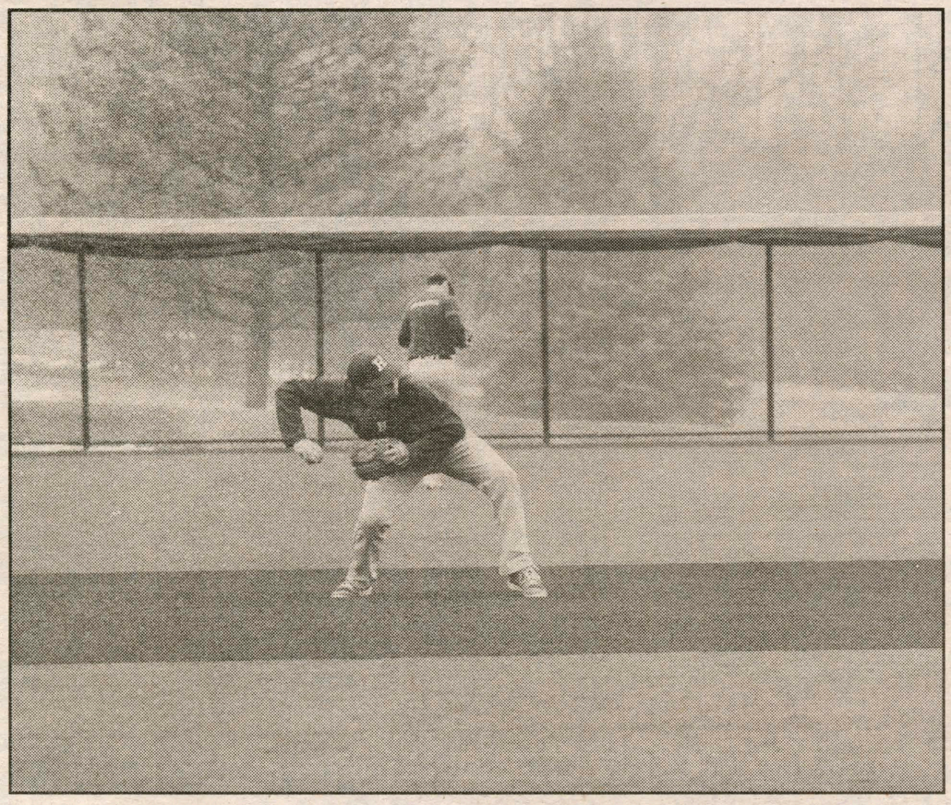

PHOTO BY JULIAN PERRICONE '20

David Braverman '19 winds up to throw to second.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

March 30, 2017

Men's lacrosse winless over spring break following impressive comeback over Colby

by Robert Berk '20
Sports Writer

	1	2	3	4	F
Colby	5	0	3	0	8
Hamilton	**0**	**3**	**4**	**2**	**9**

	1	2	3	4	F
#19 Bowdoin	2	4	7	1	7
Hamilton	**5**	**1**	**1**	**3**	**17**

While most Hamilton students went home and relaxed over spring break, the Men's lacrosse team was busy with five games. Unfortunately, the Continentals lost all five, but the team is working hard and continuing to improve.

As classes finished up on Friday afternoon and break began, the team went to Wesleyan University. The Cardinals handed the Continentals their first loss of the season, winning by a score of 12-8. Statistically, the game was very even. Hamilton outshot Wesleyan 36 to 27, but lost the ground balls 36-27. Both teams had 17 turnovers. The Continentals won one more faceoff. Wesleyan went on two major runs. They scored three straight to end the first quarter up 4-1 and finished the game on a 5-2 run after their lead was trimmed to one goal. First-year Chris Conley led the team in scoring with four goals. Goalie John Schisler '17 helped to keep the game close by saving eight shots. Following this game the team traveled down to Florida.

The Continentals played two games in Davenport, Florida. The first was against Keene State College. The Owls came out on fire and scored the first five goals of the game. Trip Connors '17 had a great game. He won 17 of 25 face-offs and grabbed 11 ground balls for the Continentals. Nate Weinrauch '17 led the offensive attack: he scored two goals and registered an assist. Jack Gaul '18 also had two goals, while Clay McCollum '19 contributed with a goal and an assist.

This was not enough, however, to dig the Continentals out of the early hole. While Hamilton fought to keep the score close, they lost 14-7.

Hamilton's second game in Florida was a NESCAC battle against 19th-ranked Bowdoin College. The Polar Bears were able to control the ball for a majority of the game, winning 22 out of 29 face-offs and picking up 42 ground balls compared to 26 for the Continentals. Hamilton's ball pressure, however, was superb, as they were able to force 21 turnovers. Conley '20 and Henry Hill '19 were the go-to guys on offense, each contributing two goals and an assist. The three other goals came from McCollum '19, Owen McCarthy '20 and J.D. Brachman '17. Jack Warren '19 secured five ground balls and Zach Kleinbaum '19 grabbed four. The Continentals got great play out of their goalies. Schisler '17 made seven saves in the first three plus quarters. Noah Weissmann '18 stopped six shots in his quarter and a half of action. The Polar Bears were comfortably up 9-3

*see **M. Lacrosse,** page 15*

PHOTO BY JADE THOMAS '20

Clay McCollum '19 is Hamilton's leading goal scorer with 15 this spring.

Strong pitching performances lead baseball team to 6-5 start

by Grace Myers '19
Sports Writer

Hamilton baseball got off to a busy start, playing 11 games in a one-week span in central Florida. The team went 6-5 in that time, with half of those wins being shutouts for the Continentals.

Hamilton played Fitchburg State University of Massachusetts in their first two games of the season and were swept by the Falcons. The games were shortened to seven innings each to accommodate the double-header. The first game on March 15 started off well for both teams, with Fitchburg scoring four runs in the top of the third, and Hamilton responding with three runs in the bottom. Hamilton's scoring was sparked by Kenny Collins '17, who reached third on an outfield error by the Falcons. Fitchburg's pitchers held Hamilton down in the remaining four innings, allowing only two Continentals to reach base in that span, and the Falcons took the game 7-3. The second match-up was dominated by Fitchburg from the start, who came out hot, scoring three runs in their first at-bats. Hamilton scored their only run off of a single from Collins, which drove home Ryan Wolfsberg '17. Wolfsberg accounted for one quarter of Hamilton's hits in the two games. The Falcons took the second game 5-1 to sweep the doubleheader.

Hamilton looked to rebound from the Fitchburg losses the next day. The Continentals did just that, coming out with a vengeance against Keene State College, and registering a seven-inning definitive victory by a score of 11-1. The game was notable for Callum Slater '20, who started the first game of his collegiate career and allowed just one hit and one unearned run in six innings; Slater's current ERA is a promising 2.53. Five players doubled, and two

*see **Baseball,** page 15*

PHOTO BY JULIAN PERRICONE '20

Kenny Collins '17 and Griffin Small '17 are senior leaders for the team.